



*Santa's On!
His Way!*

From the Employees and Management of
The PEOPLES Bank

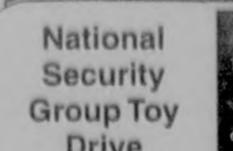
Elba and New Brockton

Member FDIC

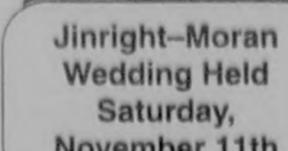
Here's hoping the holidays bring everything on your wish list! You've been especially nice to us this year, and we'd like to say "thanks" for the gift of your patronage. Please accept our sincere best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

ARCHIVES/ COLLECTION MAN 1-1-2001
624 WASHINGTON AVE
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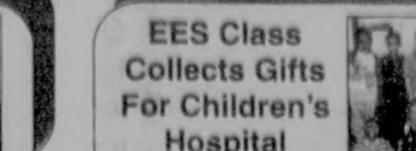
National
Security
Group Toy
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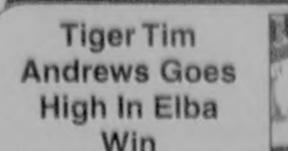
Jinright-Moran
Wedding Held
Saturday,
November 11th



EES Class
Collects Gifts
For Children's
Hospital



Tiger Tim
Andrews Goes
High In Elba
Win



The Elba Clipper

Volume 104, Number 29 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, December 28, 2000 1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 1 Ad Insert

Taking one last backward glance at 2000 before entering 2001

It has been said that by looking at the past, we can elapse into the future - "History repeats itself."

If the above is indeed true, then let's pause and take a brief look at where we have been this past year and maybe gain some insight as to what our future holds.

As is the tradition with *The Elba Clipper*, we would like to review the past year by listing the following brief excerpts and/or headlines from the front pages of 2000 editions of the *Clipper*.

They are:

JANUARY

January 6 - "Dropping the Ball" At midnight last Friday night, the citizens of Elba said goodbye to 1999 with the dropping of the lighted ball from the top of the historic courthouse in downtown Elba. • New Brockton contracts with Coffee County EMS to provide emergency medical services. Area utilities report no Y2K problems and all is go for 2000.

January 13 - • Elba resident voices opposition to new Elba post office - not wanted on Claxton Avenue; • Longtime Coffee County Circuit Clerk Jim Ellis retires after 30 years; • New Brockton contractors to Coffee County EMS to provide emergency medical services. Area utilities report no Y2K problems and all is go for 2000.

January 16 - • Coffee County Commission fires county's chief real property appraiser; • Two escapes from the Coffee County Jail captured after 36 hours of freedom; • The Elba City Council moved one step closer to getting a critical need drainage project underway in Elba.

January 23 - • (Picture) Contestants in the Miss Elba and Zion Chapel pageants last Saturday night entertained the crowd by performing a dance number; • Alabama Main Street Program for revitalization of downtown in communities explained; • City of Elba receives grant from Governor's office for two new police cars; • Coffee County EMS Division grand jury returns 32 indictments; • Piggy-Wiggly Furniture closing 16 stores - one of which was the Elba store; • Jancey McColl named interim Circuit Court Clerk.

January 20 - • Head-on collision kills one - Last Thursday, a late model Pontiac driven by Joel Alan Swasey, 17, of Enterprise collided with a tractor-trailer north of Enterprise on AL Hwy. 167 killing him; • County BOE takes no action on new police cars; • Coffee County EMS Division grand jury returns 32 indictments; • Piggy-Wiggly Furniture employees buy company as is - no change in number.

January 27 - • Governor's Long Range Disaster Recovery and Avoidance Task Force hears encouraging reports from several county offices; • State Senator Jimmy Holley found guilty of attempted murder in the shooting death of Leighanne Manning Cutts; • U. S. Postal service to advertise for site and builder for new Elba Facility.

February 3 - • Elba native Cynthia Daniels Sellers distinguished in education field; • Dorsey Trailers announces 1999 sales increase of 15%; • GTE converts software error in billing - some customers received overcharges due to software coding errors; • James I. Kelley retires from The National Security Group Inc. after 46 years of service.

February 10 - • New Brockton Town Council approves county park by and signs emergency services contract with Coffee County EMS; • U. S. Senator Richard Shelby's address, Coffee County residents at county meeting; • (Picture) Recently, State Senator Jimmy Holley and State Representative Terry Spicer presented the Elba Elementary PTO with a check for \$10,000.

February 17 - • Superintendent of Elba City Schools Charles Pearce hands in resignations to Elba City Council seated on Federal Emergency Management Agency's drainage project; • Coffee County Commission parks two vehicles.

• The trees around the perimeter of the courthouse square in downtown Elba were removed and will be replaced with "most suitable ones."

February 24 - • Kleinert's Incorporated - • Elba's largest business produces all good office furniture; • Stiffer law in the making against making bomb threats; • U. S. Senator Richard Shelby talks to residents over breakfast; • Elba Chamber of Commerce sponsors team clean-up day.

March 1 - • Elba BOE names Mike Williams as principal of Elba High School; • Construction projects (new classrooms) on county schools' construction pro-

jects going well; • New Brockton

Town Council's meeting lengthy - several grant applications discussed by council members; • Elba's Annual Christmas Festival and Parade set for Saturday, November 25.

March 2 - • (picture) Lest We Forget - A somber anniversary was observed yesterday, March 1, 2000. It was 21 years ago that Coffee County Sheriff C. F. "Neil" Grantham was murdered in cold blood in front of the jail; • Coffee County commission limits work on Zion Chapel ballpark and mixes E-911 dispatcher assistance; •

March 9 - • Coffee County's Chief Real Property Appraiser facing DUI charge; • Third Branch (W. L. "Bill" Brunson) elected to head National Security Insurance Co.; • PSC Commissioner Ian Cook & GTE reps meet public; • Coffee County BOE reviews construction sites (new classrooms) at Zion Chapel and New Brockton

and plant-a-tree.

March 13 - • County commission debates hiring of appraiser; • Elba City BOE moves closer to naming new school superintendent; • Kanyo Lee selected to be new coach for Elba's 2-sea on commission; • (Picture) Governor Don Siegelman signed into law a special bill allowing the City of Elba to construct and operate a fiber optic cable TV system.

March 18 - • (Picture) Five-year old dies - a one-vehicle crash last Thursday evening took the life of Zandra David Roberts, age 5, of Barberville, Comer; • Elba resident arrested shortly after 11 p.m. approximately 13 miles north of Elba on AL Hwy. 87 in the Jack Community; • Judge sets a "no-delay" trial date for Russell William Cutts, Jr. who stands accused of murdering his father and step-mother.

March 25 - • Three die in mobile home fire in New Brockton - Daniel Lee Capps, 26, died while trying to save his son, William, 22, from the burning structure; • Commission and Revenue Commissioner remain at odds on appraiser position; • Jury returns verdict in favor of Wal-Mart over Elba couple; • Elba City BOE names Danny Weeks to serve as new superintendent.

April 1 - • (Picture) Contestants in the Miss Elba and Zion Chapel pageants last Saturday night entertained the crowd by performing a dance number; • Alabama Main Street Program for revitalization of downtown in communities explained; • City of Elba receives grant from Governor's office for two new police cars; • Coffee County EMS Division grand jury returns 32 indictments; • Piggy-Wiggly Furniture employees buy company as is - no change in number.

April 6 - • Warning sirens interrupt New Brockton Town council's monthly meeting Monday evening; • Alabama's legendary "Big" Ruby Folsom Ellis Austin dies at age 87; • Area law enforcement officials looking for two missing youths - David Adam Lamb, 16, and Ashley Tanay Lamb, 15.

April 13 - • Luck teenager - Kacy Lee Clark - dies in one-car crash; • \$1.6 million Elba Nursing Home expansion and renovation project announced; • Dean Blair announces candidacy for County Commission District One seat; • Robert Stephens seeking re-election to District 3 seat on County Commission.

April 20 - • \$1.5 million lawsuit against county pending - lawsuit filed by former juvenile probation Officer Eva McGrath-Love; • Gladys Yelverton seeking Democratic nomination for probate judge; • Linda Westbrook seeking re-election to District 1 seat on commission; • Disappearance of local teenagers results in the arrest of all open officer.

April 27 - • County Commissioners discuss pay raises and pending court cases; • County BOE members stand firm on present non-curriculum club policy; • (Picture) Determined young man, Thomas McBride, achieves goal; • (Picture) More ballpark funds (\$10,000) presented to Zion Chapel High School by State Sen. Jimmy Holley and State Rep. Terry Spicer.

May 4 - • \$10 million claim filed against county in the death of Jack

McBride.

May 29 - • County Commission deals with bids and jail; • (Picture) Tragedy Strikes - Last Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Birdie Rushing was on her way home from work when the unimaginable happened. A large pine tree fell across the top of her car, crushing it, and causing her death; • Mickey Counts wins run-off race for Democratic nomination for Circuit Clerk.

July 1 - • Elba BOE names Mike Williams as principal of Elba High School; • Construction projects (new classrooms) on county schools' construction pro-

jects nearing completion.

• Area farmers still in drought trouble even with the recent appearance of rain showers; • Elba man (Keith Shumel Tyson, age 20) arrested on robbery charges.

July 13 - • County commission goes behind closed doors to discuss pending legal action - Minor adjustments made to three-year paving plan; • City of Elba - No funds available for four-laning of U. S. 84 between Elba and New Brockton; • Elba man (Anton Smith, 32) charged with 2 counts of 1st degree rape; David Bandura seeking District 2 seat on Elba City Council.

July 20 - • County classroom ready for students; • (Picture) With temperatures hitting 106 degrees, youngsters head for the local swimming pool to cool off; • H. H. Coker, 84, of Elba, dies; • (Picture) Elba man (Anton Smith, 32) charged with 2 counts of 1st degree rape; David Bandura seeking District 2 seat on Elba City Council.

July 27 - • Coffee County Commission looking at garage options; • (Picture) Groundbreaking for new

industrial building in Elba Industrial Park held Tuesday morning; • Elba City Board of Education members elect new members; • (Picture) Elba man (Anton Smith, 32) charged with 2 counts of 1st degree rape; David Bandura seeking District 2 seat on Elba City Council.

August 3 - • Large crowd in Opp

Chamber of Commerce meeting

rode told by state highway officials that U. S. Hwy. 84 four-laning project is on schedule; • Charles Cole and Charles Coker, Jr. for office of Mayor of New Brockton; • Elba City BOE holds special meeting to fill three vacant seats on

Elba City Council.

August 10 - • Paul Morrow retires

from Dorsey Trailers after 41 years

of service; • Yellow Dog Democrat

Bill Stokes honored; • Ronne Hammon

and Charles Coker, Jr. for office of

Mayor of New Brockton; • (Picture) Elba City BOE names Danny Weeks to serve as new superintendent.

August 17 - • Municipal elections

for Elba, New Brockton and Kin

ston set for Tuesday; • (Picture) City

of Elba election manager, Herb

McCall tests the voting machine to

be used in Tuesday's municipal

election; • Elba City Council members

elect new members; • (Picture) Elba

City BOE approves \$13.3 million budget; • Weatherization program made available to Coffee County Citizens.

August 24 - • Municipal voters

choose 2000-2001 leaders; • Elba

Police Department investigating

shooting of two Elba men; • (Picture) Elba police cruiser totaled; Officer Charles Driggers narrowly

escapes serious injury.

August 31 - • (Picture) Sutley's Fur

store holds ribbon cutting ceremony

for old Skinner's Furniture loca

tion on the square in downtown

Elba; • Funding approved for

new roads; • (Picture) Elba

City Council members

return to work after summer

vacation; • (Picture) Elba

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LIFESTYLES



The National Security Group, Inc. recently held a toy drive for the local HRDC (Human Resources Development Corporation). According to Dale R. Brown, who coordinated this program for National Security, the toy drive was an overwhelming success. The toy drive was completed last week when The National Security Group, Inc. delivered the toys to Dotie Strickland, coordinator of the Elba office of HRDC. Pictured above are: (left of tree) Debbie Brown, Henrietta Taylor and Ann Holley, all employees of The National Security Group, Inc.; (right of tree) Dotie Strickland, HRDC; Brian McLeod and Betty Brunson, both of The National Security Group, Inc.

Elba Chamber of Commerce sponsoring 2001 giveaway at New Year's celebration

Make plans now to spend New Year's Eve on the Courthouse Square in downtown Elba. The Elba Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the second annual "Candyland on the Courthouse" on Sunday, Dec. 31.

Plans are underway to ring out the old and ring in the new with a big celebration. The event is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. on the Courthouse Square. There will be entertainment by local musicians, cloggers, drama teams and singers. In addition, there will be children's activities and various refreshments

available for those in attendance.

At the stroke of midnight, a scheduled ball will drop from the top of the courthouse. A fireworks display will begin and hundreds of balloons will be released.

As an added feature this year, everyone who purchases a commemorative Elba Christmas ornament will have a ticket entered into a drawing for \$2,001. After the stroke of midnight, the ball will be drawn and a lucky winner will be awarded the money. Ornaments are \$15 each and will make perfect Christmas gifts. The ornaments are

available at many locations in town, including Bradley's Florist & Gifts, Briar Patch, Denise's Hair & Nail Salon, Head 2 Toe Salon, Jewel Box, Peoples Bank, SouthTrust Bank and Kleiner's. This year's ornament depicts the historic Pea River Bridge.

Make your plans now to be in Elba on the Courthouse Square to celebrate the beginning of the new year. For further information regarding the New Year's Celebration, please contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce at 897-3125.



It was a decade that changed everything. But despite all the turmoil, in many ways life was simpler then. And so was managing your money.

But that was then... and this is now. Many of the financial services we take for granted now were unimaginable just a few short years ago. But even with all the changes, some things will always be the same. Like an understanding attitude, courtesy and professional financial service.

Then, Now and Always™

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35 Years of
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Jinright-Moran wedding held Saturday, November 11th

Jerod Jinright and Courtney Moran were united in marriage at Pleasant Ridge Church in a outdoor ceremony on Saturday afternoon, November 11, 2000 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Alfred Inker officiating.

The bridal party strolled a short distance to the church preceding a horse drawn carriage carrying the bride. The entrance was marked with a heart shaped wrought iron arch weaved with ivy and ivy tulle. Two large flower arrangements of roses, carnations, poppies and ivy adorned each side of the arch. A colorful decorative pheasant was placed in each basket.

The ceremony was held on the front steps of the church. A large fern adorned the top step atop a column wrapped in ivy and tulle along with the side rails of steps also being decorated in ivy and tulle. Two large ferns were contained in pedestal columns on each side of the base of the steps. The front gable of the church was adorned with a swag arrangement of flowers to match other flower arrangements. The pheasant completed the swag. An arrangement of three compartments served as holder of the unity rose. Song selections included: "The Presence of the Lord is Surely in this Place" and "In This Very Room."

The bride wore a candlelight dress with a fitted lowered waistline bodice made of silk dupioni and French lace. The front and lower back areas were embellished with pearls and sequins. A matching choker of pearls and sequins accentuated the deep v-neckline of the bodice. The full skirt was made of a four tiered peacock style with a five tiered hemline. The bodice was an alternate organza and French lace. The sleeves were semi fitted with shaped slits finished with antique lace. A long cathedral length train connected at the waist of the dress.

Significant to the beauty of the dress was the fact the Bride's mother had worn it 31 years ago. Completing the attire was ivory shoes that had been worn by the groom's mother at her wedding 26 years ago. The waist length double layer veil was made of silk organza finished with a silk ribbon around the edges and attached a gold crown accented by white pearls. She carried a white Bible wrapped with lace from her mother's gown and covered with miniature white roses and baby's breath.

The bride's party consisted of Maid of Honor, Jill Jinright, Elba, sister of the groom. Bridesmaids were: Darbie Roberts, Hattiesburg, Miss., Kemberly Groue, Biloxi, Miss., Casey Moran, Montgomery, all sisters of the bride, and Jessica Hargrove, Troy, friend of the bride. Each attendant wore an ankle length lace sheath with a velvet dress accented with hand-made silk organza collars, cuffs and sash. Each attendant carried an ivory parasol decorated with burgundy ribbon, miniature roses and lace. Their attire was completed with handmade brocade draw-string purses, a gift from the bride. Roses made of cloth in a deep burgundy color adorned each attendant's Gisele hairstyle.

Flower girl was Miss Megan DeSandro, Troy, and Gerald Groue, Biloxi, Miss., served as ring bearers. Friends, Patsy English and Dawn Morris with Freida Jones accompanying the flower girls sang the song selections. Ken English drove his horse and carriage for the arrival of the bride. Guest registrar was Charlotte Jinright, cousin of the groom. Upon announcement of the new couple, Thomas Boswell, cousin of the groom, served as bell ringer. Gerald Groue, brother-in-law of the bride, provided musical entertainment for dancing and listening pleasure at the reception.

After a wedding trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, the couple are making their home in the Woodland Grove Community.

Pre-Nuptial Events:

On Sept. 24, a lingerie shower was held at the home of Tracey Johnson, Enterprise. Other hostesses were: Sheila Johnson, Sue Hudson and Kerry Johnson, all of Elba.

A combination pantry shower and handyman shower was given on Oct. 1, by members of Woodland Grove Baptist Church at the church fellowship hall.

A miscellaneous shower was held at the home of Mrs. Carolyn Jinright on Oct. 5. Assisting in hostesses were: Mrs. Jackie Jinright, Mrs. Nellie Smith, Mrs. Shirley Goodson, Mrs. Stephanie McIntosh

Serving as Best Man was Edward Jinright, father of the groom. Groomsmen were: Joseph Jinright of Freeport, Fla., and Gary Kelley of Albany, Ga., cousins of the groom, and Wesley Johnson and Jamie Hall, both of Elba, friends of the groom. Ushers were: Shane Moran, Troy, and Jon Roy Moran III, Savannah, Ga., brothers of the bride. Kyle Boswell, Elba, cousin of the groom, was ring bearer. The ring bearer's pillow had been used

as a combination pillow for the bride and groom.

The bride's mother had a special request that the ring bearer's pillow be used as a combination pillow for the bride and groom.

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SCHOOLS

Student Spotlight



by **Francie English**

Name: Katie Elizabeth Dyess

Parents: Dr. Lance K. Dyess and Bonita F. Dyess

Age: 15

Grade: 9th

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite music: R&B, Pop Rock, and Contemporary Christian

Clubs/Activities: Jr. Beta, Chi Alpha Mu, and the First Assembly

Interests/Hobbies: Going to church, Hanging out with friends, and shopping.

Personal Quote: "The only right to criticism is to become perfect first."

Katie Dyess was chosen to be in this week's student spotlight.

Katie's favorite subject in school is science. She enjoys the experiments that she gets to perform in class.

The one thing that she likes most about Elba High School is how much time you spend in a single class. Katie would like to be able to take French; however, EHS does not have this class available to students.

After she graduates, she plans on attending college.

Her most memorable moment at school was the night we played on Shores. She said that there was magic in the air the Elba Tigers regained their spirit.



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Bethany Dye
Amanda
Berenstrau

TIGER BRIEFS

I Don't Feel So Well...

by **Connie Kelley**

Coughing and sniffling are the most common sounds heard at EHS lately. During the weeks of Nov. 27 - Dec. 10, 239 students from the high school alone were absent. At the elementary school, 93 students were absent in one day's time. There are several precautions that one can take to avoid getting sick this time of year.

1. Wash your hands at least 6 times a day.

2. If you are running a fever, do not attend school.

3. Be sure to get an annual flu shot.

4. Do not share drinks, food, or toothbrushes with someone else.

If one does all of these things, he will certainly be on the safe side. Protect yourself from sickness and have a healthy winter season.

Gifts For Children's Hospital



Mrs. Wise's second grade class recently raised money to buy gifts for the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. The students had a lesson on kindness and compassion for others as part of their character education class. Mrs. Wise asked them to bring in any loose change that they had from the month of October through November. At the end of the month, they had collected \$90. Games, art supplies, and toys were bought for the playroom at the hospital. Each student made a Christmas card to send with the gifts.

The one thing that she likes most about Elba High School is how much time you spend in a single class. Katie would like to be able to take French; however, EHS does not have this class available to students.

After she graduates, she plans on attending college.

Her most memorable moment at school was the night we played on Shores. She said that there was magic in the air the Elba Tigers regained their spirit.

SPRING REGISTRATION



REGISTRATION Andalusia/Greenville

Tuesday, January 2
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(All Students)

Classes Begin January 3, 2001

LATE REGISTRATION
January 3 - 8, 2001

Andalusia 222-6591/Greenville 382-2133 (ext. 3101)

LBW students: front, left to right: Koko Kelly, Coosa Central; Trish Grimes, Andalusia; Abby Walters, Pleasant Home; Sabrina Rigs, Red Level; back, left to right: Eric Jordan, Elba; Jamie Jewell, Opp; Matthew Hardy, Andalusia; and Kyle Lucas, Opp.

IN HIM WAS LIFE
AND THE LIFE WAS
THE LIGHT OF
MEN

The Reason for the Season

by **Bethany Dye**

Christmas. It's everyone's favorite time of the year...Or, is it? Why is Christmas so appealing? This holiday means many different things to many different people. For some, it will be a happy time full of family, presents, and fun. For others, they might consider Christmas a very depressing or empty holiday. For me, the meaning of Christmas has a lot to do with the word itself.

"Christmas" comes from a word

meaning "Christ's mass."

Webster defines Christmas as "a Christian feast observed on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Christ..." Hmmm...the birth of Christ. What does that phrase, so often taken for granted, really mean? To me, Jesus was born, the world had not heard a word from God in over 400 years, Jesus had bridged the gap and rejoined man to His creation.

So, whatever you plan to do during the Christmas holidays, take time to think about what Christmas really means to you.

What's Your Most Memorable Christmas?

by **Amy Kirkland**

Every Christmas everybody wants something special for Christmas. Some students at Elba High told the Journalism Staff what they wanted.

Brandi Kelley - A hot date with Tyra Banks.

Ron Hill - A night on the town with Dobra Cox.

Clark Skinner - clothes

Lance Sutley - A four wheeler and a Play Station 2

Lance Cross - A Play Station 2

Meredith English - A Labrador dog

Marcus Henderson - money, skills like Vince Carter, and a Cadillac

Candace Anderson - Diamonds

Jeffrey Fuller - A 14-point buck

Jason Guley - The voice of Brian McKnight

Nell Grantham - The Pimp (Job's Impala)

John Bowers - Rims for the Pimp

Semester in Review - 1st Half of School Year Over

by **Alan Head**

As a senior, it's hard to believe that the first half of the 2000-2001 school year has passed so quickly. The first year of high school is almost over. Also, it really doesn't seem possible that an entire year has passed since everyone was excited over the coming of the "year 2000" and worried about "Y2K".

However, time does march on, and it seems appropriate to reflect upon the first semester of this school year as the first year of the new millennium is upon us. Lives as students that we will never repeat again.

As always, sports were a large part of the fall semester. Of course, there was junior varsity and varsity football, but there was also junior volleyball, junior volleyball, and a girls basketball.

For all athletes, but for seniors especially, there were mixed emotions at the end of each of the respective seasons. In addition,

the purpose of elections. Each class elected officers, and the presidents of each class as follows: **Connie Kelley** - Senior Class; **Chelsea Cooper** - Junior Class; **Bart Barnes** - Sophomore Class; and **Blake Bannister** - Freshman Class. Moving on, there were several honors bestowed upon students this year such as D and EHS Good Citizen, Senior Favorites, and the **Wade's Heisman Student Athlete Award**. Each of these events and awards marked milestones in our lives as students that we will never repeat again.

By this point in the school year, seventh graders are getting the hang of things, and seniors are becoming more nostalgic. We all realize that "time flies," but as seniors, we are truly beginning to understand that time flies. EHS is remembered. So, as we end the first semester with the final "terms" we look back with fondness but still look forward with fondness but still look forward to Christmas!

The 2000-2001 school year is over with the usual first day assembly. This was especially important day for seniors because they are honored for the first time by being allowed to march into the auditorium while the rest of the school stands. The next important event that occurred this year was

class meetings which were held for

the purpose of elections. Each class elected officers, and the presidents of each class as follows: **Connie Kelley** - Senior Class; **Chelsea Cooper** - Junior Class; **Bart Barnes** - Sophomore Class; and **Blake Bannister** - Freshman Class. Moving on, there were several honors bestowed upon students this year such as D and EHS Good Citizen, Senior Favorites, and the **Wade's Heisman Student Athlete Award**. Each of these events and awards marked milestones in our lives as students that we will never repeat again.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Another Christmas has come and gone, and even though our girls are now 17 and 11, it was fun to see their faces on Christmas morning when they opened their gifts and saw what kind of surprises Santa had left behind. Neither one got everything they wanted, but they did have a very Merry Christmas, and we all gave thanks for our many blessings.

TAKING A FEW FREE SHOTS....

*** The Elba Tigers bounced back from an opening round loss in the Zion Chapel Christmas Tournament to close out the holidays with two big wins over Zion Chapel and Brantley, and by the time it was a surprising 5-3 record, the Tigers' losses have come to understand G.W. Long (twice) and 6A Enterprise, while among the wins are big road wins at Opp and New Brockton, as well as home court wins over two very good teams in Georgia and Brantley. Coach Karl Bledsoe and his players have worked hard early in the season to improve in all areas, and it showed last week in Elba's big win over Brantley. The Tigers ended at 21 wins inside as junior center John Mitchell scored 33 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, while Marcus Henderson made the move to point guard a smooth transition, and the Tiger defense really did a number on the explosive Brantley attack. I know that some hard times could be ahead for this young bunch of Tigers, but if they improve as much over the remainder of the season as they did over the opening four weeks, this could be a team to watch as the new year draws near.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers made it look easy in winning the Zion Chapel Christmas Tournament, and then survived a real battle against Brantley to enter the holiday break with a 5-3 record. The Lady Tigers pounded Arton 54-25 in the tournament opener and then ran over the Lady 'Cats with only two losses of the season, while in the championship game every player dressed out got in on the fun as they rolled past the Rebels 57-36. Elba had to come back down to earth quickly for their battle against Brantley, but managed to rally in the second half and then held off a late escape with a hard fought 46-42 win. The Lady Tigers are off to their best start ever, and if they keep their starters healthy, it looks like a better year ahead for Coach Leroy Carnley and his squad. Believe me, these girls can play.

*** The holiday break gives me a chance to look back at the start of the 2000-2001 season and take a better look at the teams in the area. Brantley got off to a 2-0 start and was ranked in the Top 10 in Class 1A, but the Bulldogs are very young and will have to really work hard in practice and in every single game if they hope to post a winning record. Kinston has found the wins few and far between early on, but these Bulldogs are also young and inexperienced, and will have to get some on-the-job training as they learn the right combination that they hope will lead to wins. New Brockton knew they were in for a rebuilding season, and that has certainly been the case as the Bulldogs struggled at times and were able to post only one win prior to the break. Zion Chapel also managed to grab one win in early-season action, but the Rebels simply aren't blessed with a lot of basketball talent, and will have to win with hard work and determination. All four of the teams in the area might be down this season, but all four give it all they have every time they hit the court, and deserve the support of their fans.

*** While most of the attention locally is focused on the Prep Holiday Classic over in Dothan, a tournament that has grown by leaps and bounds in three short years is underway over in Red Level. The Red Level Christmas Tournament includes eight boys teams and eight girls teams, and there is more than enough action for even the biggest sports fan every day of the event. The tournament bracket guarantees all the teams in the tournament three games, win or lose, and that is why holiday tournaments are all about. If the players and coaches are to give all their holiday time to play in a tournament at least get something out of it, and by playing three games in four days there is no way every single team won't get something out of the tournament. While anything can happen, it looks to me like maybe Opp against T.R. Miller and Georgia against Red Level in the boys' semifinals, and T.R. Miller against Andalusia and Pleasant Home against Red Level in the girls' semifinals. The folks over in Dothan may not agree, but this tournament will be every bit as exciting as the Classic.

*** The Malone Tigers traveled up to Enterprise last week and left with an impressive win over the 6A Wildcats. While a game might not sound like a news event to most of the folks in the area, it sure is here. This is why... (1) Malone has a total of 21 seniors in its school, yet still beat 6A Enterprise on its home court, and (2) Malone is coached by Elba's Ken English, who still maintains a home north of Elba, but lives in Florida during the school year. Coach English returned to coaching at Malone after years in private business, and has certainly lived up to the success expected by the Tiger fans as this year's team improved its record to 7-1 with the win. Good luck, Coach, and good luck over in Dothan this week in the Prep Classic.

*** The Elba Junior High Tigers closed their season last week over in Andalusia, and while two of three junior high teams lost their final game of the season, it was quite a season for all three teams. The 8th grade boys posted a 10-4 record, while the 7th grade girls closed with a 9-5 slate, and the 7th grade boys lost their final game and finished the season with a 9-1 record. These players start their season early and end it early, but their combined record of 28-10 certainly made the 2000 season one of the best ever.

*** In closing...everybody Elba, how go they are to do the best coaching situation in football! It is kind of funny that all the talk is being done by the people that will have no say so in the matter. However, the guess here is that the Tigers could very well have a new head coach before the 2001 season, which would mark the fourth coaching change since the retirement of Mack Wood. Only time will tell, and when that time comes, I will let you know.

DARRYL CALDWELL "SAYS" YOU CAN RIDE TODAY

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The Elba Junior High basketball teams closed out their seasons last week in Andalusia, and while the 8th grade Tigers were the only team able to post a win on the road, all three teams closed out the season with a 9-3 record.

The 8th grade Tigers defeated Andalusia 45-44 to finish with a 10-4 record, while the 7th grade Tigers suffered their final loss of the season 29-21 and closed out the season with a 9-1 record, and the 8th grade Lady Tigers dropped a 32-23 loss. Yossie Reynolds scored 11 points to lead Elba, while Hudson led Andalusia with 11.

Following are highlights of last week's games:

8TH GRADE BOYS

ELBA 45 ANDY 44

The Elba 8th grade Tigers staged a furious fourth quarter rally to claim an exciting 45-44 win over Andalusia. The Tigers saw Andalusia use a big third quarter to take a 34-28 advantage. However, Elba went on a furious fourth quarter surge and regained the lead late and held on to escape with the narrow 45-44 win. Jessie Thigpen poured in 28 points to lead Elba, while Watson led Andalusia with 12 points.

ELBA (45): Skinner 4, Kelley 2, Hall 2, Thigpen 28, Harrelson 2, Parker 2, Foshee 5.

Andy (44): Evans 8, Arrington 10, Mitchell 10, McTyre 2, Cotton 2, Watson 12.

8TH GRADE BOYS

ELBA 21

The Elba 7th grade Tigers fell behind early and saw a fourth quarter rally fall short in a 32-23 loss to Andalusia. The Lady Tigers fell behind 8-3 in the opening stanza and trailed 24-8 after three quarters, but staged a gallant fourth quarter rally, only to fall short and take the 32-23 loss. Yossie Reynolds scored 11 points to lead Elba, while Hudson led Andalusia with 12 points.

ELBA (45): Skinner 4, Kelley 2, Hall 2, Thigpen 28, Harrelson 2, Parker 2, Foshee 5.

Andy (21): Evans 8, Arrington 10, Mitchell 10, McTyre 2, Cotton 2, Watson 12.

8TH GRADE BOYS

ELBA 21

The Elba 7th grade Tigers fell behind early and never caught up as they closed out the season with their first loss of the year 29-21 to Andalusia. The Tigers fell behind 13-5 by the end of the half, and though they matched Andalusia basket for basket in the second half, could never rally and took the loss 29-21. Lonzo Cooks scored 6 points to lead Elba, while Frazier led Andalusia with 12 points.

ELBA (21): Evans 8, Arrington 10, Mitchell 10, McTyre 2, Cotton 2, Watson 12.

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Dear Santa,

(After checking our list twice, Santa discovered that some of his letters did not make last week's edition of The Elba Clipper. Santa read each of these letters very carefully before making his trip on Christmas Eve, and he wanted all of The Elba Clipper's readers to have a chance to read them as well. After all, the children of this area are very special to Santa!)

JACK IN A BOX DAYCARE

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a firetruck and a tractor. Santa, please drive slow when you come by my house cause my daddy has radar! I'll leave you some milk and cookies. Thank you Santa. Bryson

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a firetruck and a tractor. Santa, please drive slow when you come by my house cause my daddy has radar! I'll leave you some milk and cookies. Thank you Santa. Blake Cobb

Dear Santa,
A big Teddy Bear to hug would be nice. A truck and tractor to play with too. I'll leave you milk and cookies under my tree. Sorry if the cookies are not good. Thank you Santa. Colten

Dear Santa,
Please bring me basketball and a dog. I really would like a little shopping buggy to play with. I'll leave you milk and cookies under my tree. Thank you Santa. Haley

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a tea set, a doll and lots of surprises. I really would like some dress up clothes and hats to play with. I left you some milk and one cookie - I ate the rest of the cookies - I'm sorry. Thank you Santa. Emily Maddox

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a bottle for a doll, a purse, a puzzle, a tea set, a swing. Bring my Mary. Mary a swing for her yard too. Please bring Mary. Mary Alice some candy kisses. I left milk and cookies under my

some doll clothes too. I would like bows for my hair and something nice for my mama. I left milk and cookies on the coffee table for you. Thank you Santa, Sidney

Dear Santa,
Please bring me new toys and a pretty doll, but most of all tell my Maw Maw Jan I need to follow around with her at Day Care - not be left in my class room - I hope you like these cookies and I am leaving for you. Thank you Santa. Ryan Nelson

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a kitty and a little gray truck that is just about my size to ride on. Bring Mommy some brand new candles. Bring Papa new shoes. Bring Daddy some new shoes. Thank you Santa, Dalton Sikes

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Barbie Bike and a Barbie Boat. Bring a Barbie boat and a Barbie Radio. Bring Amber a Barbie skirt. Please bring my mommy candy and please bring my daddy some candies. Thank you Santa, Cody Gibson

Dear Santa,
I want a doll and lots of surprises. Bring my Mama lots of surprises too. Also I need a bottle for my daddy. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies left for you. Thank you Santa, John Wayne

Dear Santa,
I want a doll and lots of surprises. Bring my Mama a baby boy. Bring my daddy a gun. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies left for you. Thank you Santa, Angel Flowers

Dear Santa,
Please bring me some baby dolls, some Barbie cars and some Barbie clothes. Bring my sister some little clothes because she's a newborn baby. Bring my mommy lots of stuff. Bring my daddy some boots. Thank you Santa, Jenice Allen

Dear Santa,
I would like a kitchen and a horse and a book with Santa in it. Bring my mommy a new shirt. Bring my daddy some boots. Bring Lindsey a Barbie house. Bring Lawson some clothes. Thank you Santa, Kinley Parker

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a doll with black hair, a purse, some big pop-up books and surprises. I left you milk and cookies. Thank you Santa, Marsai

Dear Santa,
Please bring me lots of new toys. I helped my mom fix my some cookies and milk. I hope you like them. Thank you Santa, Reid

Dear Santa,
I need a new doll and doll buggy & Thank you Santa, Kari Hund

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Barbie Jeep and a Barbie motorcycle that is pink. Bring me a puppy. Bring Daddy new boots. Bring Mommy a new pink dress. Bring Kayla a bicycle and a new shirt. Thank you Santa, Madison Milette

Dear Santa,
I would like a snow board, and a snowboard and a ice cream thing with a pop up. Bring M&M's. Bring Mommy a candle, bring Daddy work tools, bring Nanny and Grammy coffee cups. Thank you Santa, Aubrey Hawkins

Dear Santa,
I want a gigo set and a nintendo game and a race car set to the Backstreet Boys CD. I want to be a swimmer pool. Thank you Santa, Jessica Bell

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COMMUNITY NEWS

January 1 brings changes for mandatory liability insurance

January 1 rings in the second phase of Alabama's mandatory liability insurance requirements as the Alabama Department of Revenue begins its weekly mailing of some 1,500 insurance verification survey forms to vehicle owners.

State Revenue Commissioner Mike Patterson also reminds vehicle owners that according to the survey requirements, 2001 brings two new requirements to the state's motor vehicle registration process.

First, owners registering their vehicles after Jan. 1, 2001, will be required to provide their driver's license number or their identification card number issued by the Alabama Department of Public Safety (\$32-4, Code of Alabama 1975) to county tag-issuing offices at the time of registration.

Companies or other business entities owning commercial vehicles will be required to provide the company's or business' federal employer identification number (FEIN) to county officials.

"The identification numbers will not be shown on the motor vehicle receipt but will be recorded in confidential state and county motor vehicle databases. The Revenue Department is required to use this identification information to carry out its mandatory liability insurance compliance responsibilities," explained Patterson.

The second requirement involves the vehicle owner's written affirmation of insurance coverage. The owner's signature on the registration receipt will indicate that the information shown on the registration receipt is correct and that the

vehicle is properly insured. No insurance proof documents will be required at the time of registration. The owner's signature is the only requirement.

What can one expect if randomly selected as one of 8,000-plus vehicles owners surveyed annually for insurance coverage? Owners will be presented a short one-page survey/questionnaire identifying the particular vehicle selected for insurance verification, and will be asked to fill in the following information on the survey form:

- name of the insurance company (NOT AGENT'S NAME) which has insured that particular vehicle;
- address and telephone number of the insurance company;
- vehicle's insurance policy number;
- effective date and expiration date of the vehicle policy.

Once completed, owners will sign the survey and the completed survey will be placed on the provided pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope within 30 calendar days from the date shown on the survey form. Individuals may also return the information by fax or by Internet. Failing to respond to the survey will result in suspension of the motor vehicle's registration.

"Once the department receives the returned surveys, we will begin the verification process," said Patterson. "If an owner is found not to have insurance, the owner will be notified and the vehicle's tag registration will be suspended. To reinstate the registration, the owner must provide proof of insurance to the Revenue Department at the time of reinstatement and pay a \$100



ANOTHER CLOSE CALL......In recent weeks, the sharp curve on Al. Hwy. 134 at the intersection of Coffee County Road 410 in the Ito Community has been the scene of several wrecks. On Monday, an eighteen wheeler driven by Robert Chet Holland, 28, of Kinston approached the curve from the east and rolled over on its side. The tractor-trailer (dry-freight trailer) belonging to Paul Wholesale Groceries was loaded with grocery products. The driver was taken to Opp Mizell Memorial Hospital by a unit of Coffee County EMS where he was treated for minor injuries and released. The accident was investigated by Alabama State Trooper Dale Cobb.

Dear Santa,

(...continued from Page 10)

bookie with a paper and wet cover es in calculator bookie. I wot adores paper they calculator bookie. Timony

Dear Santa,
I whent a bgamboldor and whenamadordete that I whent a go comon and gameboy clor game some pokemom and racing foot bal. and minidoe 64 and motorcycle 64 Dillon

Dear Santa,
I want a Betty Spiggy and want Makup Mindy. And I want my secnd front teeth. And I want a new go-cart. What do you call a bug that owns a rabbit. A bugbunny. Ashley

Dear Santa,
I want a dirbrike. I wut it to be red. A wnt a pair rubber boots I wut a hem to. I want it to be red. Jim

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie Doll. I want ice crim makro I want Makeup and dress up clothes and some earring and a cat and bike. And a Santa's hat. Brooke

Dear Santa,
I whant a cd case. I whant cd's. I want a bike. I want new shoes and new dress. I want makeover cret. I whant a hambur. I want a dog. I want a dog cat dog. Macah

Dear Santa,
I whant a toy car set Santa, and I want some whater guns and I want a Nindo game and some football game and I whant a baseball and I whant a speed dirbrike and I whant a speed dirbrike so fast this bike I love so much can have other thang I love so much Up on the fohouse top raindeer falls, out jumps good old Santa Claus down throu chiminey with lots of toys all for the little boy and girls. ho, ho, ho, who wodn't go ho, ho, ho, who wodn't go Ou up on the house top click click dont throu the chiminey with good San Knick. From Sara

Dear Santa,
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Dear Santa,
I want a race track. And I want a game boy set. And I want a skat board. And I want a foot ball. And I want a big water gun. And I want a bug book. I want a scope for my gun. I want a fishing pole and a fishing net. And I want a Vida gun for my intendo 64. And I want a lots of game boy color games. Hunter Anderson

Dear Santa,
I wish I had a horse very much and I hope I get it will be great. I want a Playhouseples. And I want A 100,000 DOLLARS! And I want a diamond. But wish I want most of all to see Kristen!!! And I

Asd

Trey Harrison

Dear Santa,
I want a dirbrike. What do you get if you put hot water down a bonnie hot, cross bonnies All I want for crismas is my tp front teeth t front teeth ho ho ho rodofh shiny nose, and antler get it ant, fers the antlers.

Thanks, Kes

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I want a race track. And I want a game boy set. And I want a skat board. And I want a foot ball. And I want a big water gun. And I want a bug book. I want a scope for my gun. I want a fishing pole and a fishing net. And I want a Vida gun for my intendo 64. And I want a lots of game boy color games. Hunter Anderson

Dear Santa,
I want a dirbrike. What do you get if you put hot water down a bonnie hot, cross bonnies All I want for crismas is my tp front teeth t front teeth ho ho ho rodofh shiny nose, and antler get it ant, fers the antlers.

Thanks, Kes

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